

Jobs for Michigan Fund Initiative: What Others Are Saying

"Any business that wants to survive in this economy has to be willing to invest in its future. Michigan faces the same choice--either create new opportunities for growth or watch the future pass you by. Governor Granholm's Job for Michigan Fund offers an important investment opportunity for creating a stronger, more diversified economy in Michigan."

Anthony F. Earley, Jr.
Chairman and CEO, DTE Energy

"Governor Granholm's \$2 billion bond proposal is a very bold and necessary plan to harness two of Michigan's key strengths: intellectual capital and technological innovation. These exist not only in the auto industry—where we have more accumulated brilliance than any other single location in the world—but also in life sciences, nanotechnology and biotechnology applications, advanced materials and composites, and an array of alternative fuel and energy technologies. The plain reality is that silos no longer exist; instead our economy is an interwoven patchwork of industries with the potential to grow and create new jobs for Michigan workers."

David E. Cole
Chairman, Center for Automotive Research
Executive Board Member, Michigan Economic Development Corporation

"I am truly excited about Governor Granholm's \$2 billion bond initiative. I think it is a very positive direction for economic development and job creation in Michigan. The initiative leverages the strength of our universities and other research institutions and greatly expands the commercialization efforts of entrepreneurs and early stage capital providers—all to the benefit of Michigan's economic growth and diversification. This is a great opportunity for our state."

Michael J. Jandernoa
Principal, Bridge Street Capital Partners LLC
Former Chairman and CEO, Perrigo Company
Executive Board Member, Michigan Economic Development Corporation
Member, Technology Tri-Corridor Steering Committee

"I commend Governor Granholm for her leadership with this \$2 billion bond proposal. We have said for several years that we want Michigan to be the growth state for life sciences, alternative fuel and energies, and advanced manufacturing. We've made some progress in the last five years however this new proposal sends a clear message to companies inside and outside of Michigan that we are serious about creating the right environment for you to grow your business."

**Dr. David Canter, Senior Vice President,
Pfizer Global Research & Development Director, Ann Arbor Laboratories
Chair, Michigan Technology Tri-Corridor Steering Committee**

"I started to investigate Michigan as a location after reading about the state's determination to build a life sciences industry here. There was a publicized pledge through the Life Sciences Corridor to provide \$50 million a year toward this effort, and I thought we might qualify for some of that funding sooner or later. In 2003, after two unsuccessful attempts in the competitive process we won a \$2.3 million life sciences award to develop new technology to help the world's research scientists unlock the genetic basis of cancer and the other major diseases."

"In five years Asterand's revenues have grown dramatically from \$100,000 in its first full year to \$8.2 million in 2004. Today Asterand has 60 employees— in effect creating one new high paying, high tech job for every month of its existence. The Governor's new proposal is a breakthrough plan that can only be good news for Michigan. It would provide significant funding to help grow companies like ours. It offers technology companies a high potential for succeeding in Michigan, and with that comes the high potential for many new jobs here."

**Randal Charlton
Co-Founder, Asterand, Inc.**

"The investment of dollars in new jobs and technologies, along with efforts to increase the number of college graduates in Michigan, are key factors in diversifying and growing the state's economy. Any initiative that encourages business development, more collaboration among university researchers and the private sector, and the development of technology advanced jobs— and keeps our graduates and best faculty in Michigan—is worthy of serious consideration."

**Michael Rao
President, Central Michigan University**

"The Jobs for Michigan Fund is an innovative shot in the arm for the state. It correctly addresses the need to attract and retain business and scientific talent, provide seed capital and encourage commercialization activities that will in the short term help create jobs and new businesses. As a relative newcomer to Michigan, I believe that this is not only the right thing to do but also critical to making the state competitive in the U.S. and global economies. I fully support the Governor and MEDC in their efforts to move it forward."

Alan I. West
CEO, Michigan Tech Enterprise Corp.

"I support Governor Granholm's \$2 billion bond proposal to help build next generation businesses in Michigan. As head of the Mt. Pleasant SmartZone™, I foresee that it will help Michigan attract knowledge-based businesses to Michigan."

"On a personal level, had the proposed resources been available earlier, the biomedical company that I co-founded—and the many professional and scientific jobs it is creating—might have relocated to Michigan instead of to another state where funding was obtained. Michigan needs this innovative initiative to actively compete with other states and countries for next generation businesses."

Nathan Long
CEO, Central Michigan University Research Corporation

"It would have been significantly easier for Neogen if an initiative like Governor Granholm's bonding initiative had been available to help us down the pathway to success. Creating a company from scratch takes a lot of hard work, and even more and even harder work to become successful. Sometimes even this won't make a difference without a little luck, a helping hand, or just being in the right place at the right time. I can't help but wonder how many other companies like ours might have been successful if a little extra funding had been available. The Governor's plan holds great promise for technology entrepreneurs and the people of our state."

James Herbert
CEO and President, Neogen Corporation
Chair, Michigan Strategic Fund

"The Governor's proposal recognizes the critical role the state can play in building first rate infrastructure for economic growth and innovation. Investments in university facilities and other supports for innovation will pay big dividends in the years ahead and better position the state for the knowledge economy of the 21st century."

Mark Murray
President, Grand Valley State University

"Michigan has many of the assets vital to a high-tech economy. We have nationally recognized institutions of higher education which conduct cutting edge research. We graduate students who are both highly talented and deeply interested in entrepreneurial endeavors. We have a modest amount of venture capital that assists in the commercialization of technology by investing both financial and human capital."

"Efforts to surround both researchers and entrepreneurially minded students with an environment that both suggests and supports new company formation need to be continued and enriched. Models of success, talented individuals with the experience to create and grow new companies, a mindset to focus research in directions that could impact Michigan's economy—these are but three examples that could be the result of the proposed Jobs for Michigan Fund. Many states in the nation are working diligently to find the right model to meld the resources of State government with that of the private sector to impact positive change. Michigan needs to make bold and intelligent moves as well."

Mary L. Campbell
General Partner, EDF Ventures

"I applaud the Governor for creating a fund that will leverage both the brain power of our universities and the entrepreneurial energy of Michigan's private sector. We recently surveyed business people active in the state's new economy sectors and learned the overwhelming majority see Michigan's higher education institutions as key resources in the effort to reshape the state's economy. Clearly, universities are the fuel that will move Michigan's economy into the future. Initiatives like this that link higher education with emerging business sectors give universities like WMU an opportunity to use their experience to propel Michigan forward by building on new discoveries and commercialization prospects."

Dr. Judith I. Bailey
President, Western Michigan University